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First Draft

Space Analysis: Boston Common

**Intro**: Background on the place: Introduce the place

* **Boston Common** is a central [public park](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public_park) in [Boston](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boston,_Massachusetts), [Massachusetts](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Massachusetts). It is sometimes erroneously referred to as "*Boston Commons*". Dating from 1634, it is the oldest city park in the [United States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States). Its 50 [acres](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acre) (20 [ha](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hectare)) of land are bounded by [Tremont Street](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tremont_Street), [Park Street](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Park_Street,_Boston), [Beacon Street](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beacon_Street), [Charles Street](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Street), and [Boylston Street](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boylston_Street). The Common is part of the [Emerald Necklace](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emerald_Necklace) of parks and parkways that extend from the Common south to [Franklin Park](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Franklin_Park,_Boston) in [Roxbury](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roxbury,_Massachusetts). A visitors' center for all of Boston is on the Tremont Street side of the park.
* The Common was used as a [camp](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_camp) by the [British](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Empire) before the [Revolutionary War](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Revolutionary_War), from which they left for the [Battle of Lexington and Concord](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Lexington_and_Concord). It was used for public [hangings](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hanging) up until 1817, most of which were from a large [oak](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oak) which was replaced with [gallows](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gallows) in 1769. [Mary Dyer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary_Dyer) was hanged there in 1660.

**Analysis**:

* See: While my observation time, I saw a lot of things. There were a lot of people walking, people walking dogs, people sitting on the bench, people walking talking to others, people playing on the baseball field, kids playing around, the police on horses, public vendors
* Hear: During my observation I herd cars and busses passing by, dogs barking, people talking, birds.
* Touch: While I was observing the area I touched the grass, the monuments, trees, and also people.
* Smell: While in Boston Common I was able to smell the grass around me, smell the hot dogs and food from the vendors, smoke from people smoking.
* Taste: while I was there I really didn’t taste anything because I was in the park, but while I was there I grab a hot dog to eat while I spend an hour observing the place.

Name: Daniel Polanco

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English 101 Section 22 (Final)

**Public Space Analysis: Boston Common**

Boston is a city full of history and has so much knowledge you could gain from, which leaves you absolutely no excuse not to explore the city of Boston. Located in the heart of downtown Boston, which also is the starting point of the Freedom Trail, Boston Common is one of the oldest central city parks in America. The Boston Common began its history in the year 1634, the Common is a 50 acre area of land(The Freedom Trail Foundation,1958), bordered by Tremont Street, Park Street, Beacon Street, Charles Street, and [Boylston Street](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boylston_Street). It’s a respectful [U.S.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) National Historic Landmark, first owned by one of the original British settlers named William Blackstone**,** who later sold the land to [Puritan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Puritan) founders of the Massachusetts Bay Colony (The Freedom Trail Foundation,1958). During the 1640s, it was used by many families as a cow meadow. The settlers used the park as a common grazing ground for a few cattle and sheep, but this only lasted for a few years as affluent families bought additional cows, which eventually led to overgrazing. As centuries passed, Boston Common has been the site of several historic events.

The Common was used as a camp by the British before the Revolutionary War, from which they left for the Battle of Lexington and Concord (The Freedom Trail Foundation, 1958). The common was also second-hand for public hangings up until 1817, most of which were from a hefty oak which was replaced with gallows in 1770 (The Freedom Trail Foundation, 1958). During the Vietnam War, thousands of people gathered in the Common to protest against the war. Nowadays the Common serves as a public park for the community to use for proper or relaxed gatherings. Events such as concerts, protests, softball games, and ice skating on Frog Pond often take place in the park. Well-known people such as Martin Luther King Jr. and Pope John Paul II have made speeches in the Common (The Freedom Trail Foundation, 1958). On February 27, 1987 Boston Common was declared a U.S National Historic Landmark. Boston Common is littered with numerous historical monuments. The **Soldiers and Sailors Monument** at Flagstaff Hill honors Civil War troops. The monument designed by architect and sculptor Martin Milmore the piece of art was set vertically in 1877 (Kristiaan Van, 2008). The Common is also quarters to one of Boston's oldest burial ground, the **Central Burying Ground**. Here are graves of many British and American casualties from the Battle of Bunker Hill in 1775. Another Civil War monument is the **Robert Gould Shaw Memorial,** located at the frame of the Common opposite the Massachusetts State House.

Boston Common is a vastly dynamic place. The walkways are occupied with pedestrians walking in different directions, some walking fast, while others walking unhurried. The sunny day worked towards the tourist’s advantage to capture pictures of the beautiful set of flowers surrounding the statue of President George Washington and the ducks taking a dive into the FrogPond. The vast green area that the common has serves a playground for dogs as well as children. Inside the Central Burying Ground there are several people taking photographs of the graves and reading some of the headstones. Adults with their children, runners, business man and tourist cross Charles Street, all of them taking different directions when they get to the other side. Even though it is a softball field, many college graduates were enjoying the flag football game. In the benches there are college students, mostly from Emerson College and Suffolk University either just reading, conversing or just relaxing. Since it the fall season, leaves are all scattered in the ground, children find it a playful to throw the leaves around, some even collecting the leaves.

Since the Common is in the middle of the city of Boston, the sound in the Common varies. There are a lot of people walking their dogs; the sound of dogs barking is not absent at all. The noise of trucks and cars from the five clock rush hour was also present, which included a mix of car horns and the cry of the children playing in the playground. There was also the sound of hip-hop from the radio of two street performers. The stunning sound of the cardinals and blue jays chirping sounded just like music to the pedestrians walking by. There are a plenty of things to touch and feel in the Common. The green grass and flowers surrounding some statues feels soft and smooth. The water of the pond felt cold as like ice due to the very chilly weather. Even though the Common is surrounded by the very appealing city smell, consisting of flowers, trees, hot dogs, grass and people’s fragrances stands out from the other distinctive smells of a city park. The smell that unfortunately cannot be avoided was the smell of cigarette because smokers are found everywhere in the park. The smell of horses is always present at the Common, this is because of the police officers that are always around.

Overall, Boston Common is place to admire. People come and spend quality time in the Common because of its historical and gorgeous landscape. The Common is located in an ideal location. Most of the tourist that visit the city of Boston experience the joy of walking through the Freedom Trial and what better place to begin exploring Boston than in the Boston Common. Bostonians find the Common a very tranquil place, the park’s elegant appearance contributes towards that desire that people have to spend some time at the Common. The interesting fact about the Common is its never ending activity, it’s always aliveand people are always enjoying the city central park, no matter the season. One thing that draws the community to the park is the security. The park has never experience any type of violent act, and even when there are protestors and other activities, the peace has always been present in the Common. In general, Boston Common has been the place to explore and enjoy for Bostonians.

Works Cited

1. Kristiaan Van. "A View on Cities." Boston Common. 2008. 25 Nov. 2008 <http://www.aviewoncities.com/boston/bostoncommon.htm>.

2. The Freedom Trial Foundation. "The Freedom Trial." Boston Common. The Freedom Trial Foundation. 26 Nov. 2008 <http://www.thefreedomtrail.org/visitor/boston-common.html>.

**EN101/Kingsley Writer’s Post Write**

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Please answer the questions below carefully and thoughtfully. Attach the completed sheet to your work before turning it in.

1. Summarize your paper in two or three sentences (articulate the central idea driving the paper).

2. Name the strongest part(s) of your paper and tell me how and why they are strong.

3. Name the weaker part(s) of your paper and tell me how or why you had a hard time making them stronger.

4. What did your Peer Reviewer(s) say about your work? Your observations and description? The context you provided and your analysis of the space you chose? Relate some good advice you received (who gave it), and how you used it to improve your text.

5. How can I help you most in my response to this piece? PLEASE BE SPECIFIC about the parts or passages that you still aren’t satisfied with, or a decision you made that you want me to comment on.